Education for All Global Monitoring Report by UNESCO

1819. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the latest Education for All Global Monitoring Report by UNESCO; India has been placed among the groups which is very far away from achieving the goals for ensuring that every child goes to school by 2015;

(b) if so, the reasons for such dampening report *vis-a-vis* progress under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan aiming the goal; and

(c) the steps proposed to achieve Universal primary education by 2015 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) India has been placed among the countries having low Education Development Index (EDI) in the latest Education for All Global Monitoring Report by UNESCO. In this Report the EDI of India is based on educational data supplied as on 30th September 2001. Therefore, the impact of the initiatives taken by the Government during the recent years under schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are yet to be factored into this report.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to achieve Universal Elementary education by 2015 in the country:—

(i) The foremost amongst them is the amendment of the Constitution through the Constitution of India (86th Amendment) Act, 2002, through which free and compulsory education has become a Fundamental Right for children in the age group 6-14 years.

(ii) In addition, the following schemes are being implemented to provide education facilities to all children in the 6-14 age group including out of school children & dropouts in all States/UTs:

— Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA): This scheme aims at providing useful and relevant elementary education for all children in the 6 to 14 age group by 2010 as well as to bridge social, regional and gender gaps, with the active participation of the community in the management of schools. Interventions for early childhood care

and education, recruitment of female teachers, provision of free textbooks to girls, opening and upgradation of schools to improve access to education, involvement of women through a participatory process in the effective management of schools and, 'the Mahila Samakhya type' of interventions that help attain the objective of gender parity. The National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya (KGBV) are being implemented as part of the SSA to promote universalisation of elementary education among girls belonging to the disadvantaged sections of society.

— The Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education: This scheme was launched from the 1st April 2001 to provide access to school-less habitations. The scheme also supports flexible strategies for out of school children including bridge courses, residential camps, 'drop in' centers, summer camps and remedial coaching.

— Mid-Day-Meal Scheme: The scheme was initially launched in 1995-96 with the objective of providing a boost to the efforts of universalisation of primary education by increasing enrolment and retention by reducing dropouts and simultaneously impacting on the nutrition levels of students in primary classes.

— The National Literacy Mission (NLM) was set up in 1988 to impart functional literacy to non-literates in the age group of 15-35 years in a time bound manner. The aim of the NLM is to achieve a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007.

World Bank loan for engineering colleges

1820. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to release a loan for the engineering colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu would also be getting the loan?